The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, which examined the Bill has recommended that the provisions for pictorial warnings be incorporated in the Bill. The recommendations have been examined and the said Bill, will be taken up for consideration in the Parliament.

Expenditure on Health

1139. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in Indian Express on the 8th January, 2003 that according to an expert, India's expenditure on health is low;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's comments thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the expenditure on health; and

(d) the details regarding the health expenditure in the Health Policy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Budgetary allocation for different sectors is decided keeping in view the availability of overall budgetary resources and sectoral priorities. The health expenditure in the country as percentage of GDP has been approximately 4.9% in the year, 2000 of which public health expenditure is 0.9% of GDP. The government has been making every effort to augment the resources for health sector by mobilising external assistance by various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting various National Health Programmes for control of major diseases. Health infrastructure in certain States is also being upgraded with World Bank assistance. The 10th Plan Outlay for Central health Sector has been fixed at Rs. 9253 crore compared to Rs. 5118 crores during the Ninth Plan. The National Health Policy, 2002 envisages increasing the public health expenditure from 0.9% to 2% of GDP by the year 2010. Further, it envisages increasing the Central Government's contribution from the existing 15% to 25% of the total public health spending by the year 2010. Also, it is proposed to increase State sector health spending from 5.5% to 7% and 8% of the budget by 2005 and 2010 respectively.